

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim this day, the 7th of May 1980, as Salute to Learning Day in honor of this beginning.

I call upon all parents and students, all teachers and administrators, all lawmakers and public officials—I call upon all my fellow citizens to celebrate this day. As a people, let us dedicate ourselves anew to building an educational system which will cherish young people, instill self-discipline and prepare students for tomorrow's world; which will encourage scientific curiosity and foster artistic creativity; which will support research, reward good teaching and honor high intellectual accomplishment.

Only by making this commitment can we pass on a tradition of educational excellence and equal opportunity to Americans of the twenty-first century and give them the tools they will need to shape their own interpretations of the American dream and make their own contributions to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4756 of May 6, 1980

Tribute to Eight American Servicemen

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The names of the eight American servicemen who died in a mission of rescue in Iran will forever stand among the names of heroes. They were valiant men. They knew the danger of the task for which they had volunteered, and they were willing to confront that danger because they wished to right a terrible wrong.

At a time when the delicate, age-old patterns of diplomatic communication that help maintain the peace of the world are under direct attack, we have a great need of men and women ready to make the sacrifices that freedom and security require. The eight who gave their lives while attempting to free their fellow Americans from an illegal and intolerable captivity were such individuals. They knew the price that freedom can demand, and they were prepared to pay it. They laid down their lives for their countrymen, for their Nation's honor, and for the principles of justice and civilization. We mourn their loss; we admire their courage; we respect their dedication; and we reaffirm the principles for which they died.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces (36 U.S.C. 178) do hereby proclaim that, as a mark of respect to the memory of these brave men, the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on all buildings, grounds and naval vessels of the Federal government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions upon notification of the provisions of this Proclamation until sunset on Friday, May 9.

I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other

facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4757 of May 12, 1980

Flag Day and National Flag Week 1980

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Two hundred and five years ago, in June of 1775, the first distinctive American flags to be used in battle were hoisted above the Colonial defenses at the Battle of Bunker Hill. One of these flags was an adaptation of the British "Blue Ensign." The other was an entirely new design. Both, however, bore one device in common—the pine tree—chosen to symbolize the colonists' efforts to wrest their land from the forests.

As the colonists moved toward a final break with the mother country, other flags with more pointed messages began to appear. Several featured rattlesnakes, symbolizing vigilance and deadly striking power, and were emblazoned with the legends "Liberty or Death" and "Don't Tread on Me."

On January 1, 1776, the Grand Union flag was raised over Washington's Continental Army headquarters, displaying not only the British crosses of St. George and St. Andrew but also thirteen red and white stripes for the thirteen American colonies. That same year, the Bennington flag was unfurled, with thirteen stars, thirteen stripes and the number "76."

But it was not until the following year that the Continental Congress chose a flag that more tellingly expressed the unity and resolve of the Colonials who had banded together to seek independence. On June 14, 1777, two years after the Battle of Bunker Hill, the delegates voted "that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation."

Today, thirty-seven stars and two centuries later, the flag chosen by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia continues to be our national flag and to symbolize our shared commitment to freedom and equality.

36 USC 157.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by a joint resolution of August 3, 1949 (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as Flag Day and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its observance. The Congress also requested the President, by joint resolution of June 9, 1966 (80 Stat. 194), to issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as National Flag Week and to call upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag on those days.

36 USC 157a.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, do hereby designate the week beginning June 8, 1980, as National Flag Week, and I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag on all Government buildings during the week. I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day, June 14, and